

OTES'S Letter.

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For the Right Honourable Sir Leoline Jenkins Knight His
Majesties Principal Secretary of State at Whitehall.

I Gave your Honour the last Friday the trouble of a few Lines, in which I told you, that I had business of Importance with the King and Council; your answer was, *That I must apply my self to a Justice of Peace, or Courts of Justice*: The business I had with the Council, is a Complaint against Roger L'Estrange Esq; who in several Libels of his called the *Observer*, and other Seditious Pamphlets, hath (as I humbly conceive,) Vilified and Ridicul'd the Evidence of the *Popish Plot*, and Arraigned the Proceedings of the Government, upon the said *Plot*; And to give himself a reputation in this his Illegal course, he pretends in one or more of those his said *Observers*, that he hath Authority or leave from some of His Majesties Ministers for so doing; which I dare not believe. Your Honour knows, that His Majesty was so sensible of the danger he was in, by reason of that Horrid Conspiracy, that he did not only recommend the strict examination thereof, to His Houses of Parliament, but also was pleased to acquaint them, how unsafe he was till it was searched out to the bottom. Besides this, three Fasts were Proclaimed, Appointed and kept, which the King himself strictly kept, and commanded all His Loving Subjects so to do; several have been Executed; and several Parliaments have Voted, *That there was an Horrid, Hellish Popish Plot*; Now all these things considered, I could never have imagined that any private Persons, could have been so bold with the Government, as to use such Reflections upon their Proceedings, and call in question the Veracity of the Testimony of that Evidence, which was justified by His Majesties Council, and the Parliament, and the Courts of Justice; I thought I should never have liv'd to have seen the day that the *Plot* should be call'd in question, which the King had own'd in his several Proclamations; But since it is so, I must pray your Pardon, if I cannot apply my self for Redress in that way and method your Honour was pleased to order: For I humbly conceive that it is the Government that is abused, and therefore in Conscience and Honour it is bound to vindicate its Proceedings from such Aspersions as are cast upon them by the said L'Estrange and his Confederates; I would not use any method or way to injure the worst of my Enemies, but that the Council will take my hard usage from the said L'Estrange into serious Consideration, and cause the said L'Estrange to be Silenc'd, and Reparation to be made me. To that end, I have in this sent a Petition to the King and Council, which I would have presented if I might have had the liberty to appear at Court, in which I pray for Redress; I hope God will put it into your hearts to do me right. In the meantime, Sir I am

Your Honours Humble Servant
TITUS OTES.

Feb. 28. 1683.

My humble Request is, that this Petition inclosed, may be presented to the King in Council, so that I may be in some probable way of having Redress.

OTESS Petition.

To the KINGs most Excellent Majesty, and to the Lords
and others of His Majesties most Hon^{ble} Privy Council.

The humble Petition and Complaint of *Titus Otes*

SHEWETH,

That your Petitioner according to his Duty and Allegiance which he owes, and is always bound to pay to your Majesty and the Government Establish'd by Law, did in the month of *September*, in the year 1678, Discover a most Horrid, Hellish *Papish Plot* against your Majesty and the *Protestant Religion and Government*, to the amazement of your Majesty and the Privy Council, as appears by the several Proclamations issued out by your Majesties Order, with the Advice of your most Honourable Privy Council, which your Petitioner is, and will be ready to produce when thereunto commanded by your Majesty.

That your Majesty was so highly sensible of the great danger your Person was in, and your Government, by reason of that Conspiracy, that you were graciously pleased to proclaim several solemn Fasts and days of Humiliation, and did will and require your Loving Subjects to joyn in Hearty Prayers and Supplication with your Majesty unto Almighty God for the Blessings of the Discovery, and for the farther Discovery thereof; and in several of your Majesties most gracious Speeches to your Houses of Parliament, hath been pleased to express, *How unsafe your Majesty was till the said Plot was searched to the bottom.*

That several *Roman Catholicks* (Priests and others) were Apprehended, and Committed, Indicted and Convicted, Attainted and Executed upon your Petitioners Evidence, together with the Evidence of others, the Attainders of which persons remain (as your Petitioner believes) upon Record.

That (upon the Evidence of your Petitioner and others) four Parliaments declar'd in their *VOTES* That there was an *Horrid Papish Plot* for the Destruction of your Royal Person and your Government, and the Subversion of the Protestant Religion as by Law Establish'd.

That *Roger L'Estrange*, whom your Petitioner hears is now a Justice of the Peace, (though turn'd out for several Misdemeanors in the year 1680.) hath Defam'd and Arraign'd the Justice of the Nation, in Ridiculing the said *Papish Plot*, and the Discovery and the Discoverers thereof, in certain Scandalous and Seditious Pamphlets of his call'd the *Observer*, and in several other Pamphlets.

That the said *Roger L'Estrange* pretends in some of those Seditious and Scandalous Pamphlets, *That he is authoriz'd so to do by one or both your Secretaries*

That the said Scandalous and Seditious Pamphlet, appears to countenance *Papery* in your Protestant Government, and the *Papish Party* have been much encourag'd by the same, to Revile and Threaten your Petitioner; he the said *L'Estrange* pretending that he had Authority for so doing.

That your Petitioner hath born the Scandalous Reflections and Aspersions, upon the account of his Discovery of the said Plot, from the said *L'Estrange* this four years with Patience; and had the Scandals only touch'd your Petitioner, I would not have complain'd to your Majesty and this Honourable Board; But since the said *L'Estrange* Scandalously vilifies the said Discovery, and calls in question the Justice of your Government, your Petitioner therefore thought it fit to apply himself to your Majesty and this Board for Redress.

The Premises consider'd, your Petitioner humbly prays your Majesty, and this Right Honourable Board, to Relieve your Petitioner and his Evidence from the Seditious Calumnies of the said *Roger L'Estrange*, and not suffer your Petitioner to be left, to be daily oppress'd and destroy'd for those Services which your Majesty, and Council, and Parliament, and Courts of Justice are sensible of: And your Petitioner shall (as in duty bound) pray for your Majesties Health, and long Life, and happy Reign, &c.

Titus Otes.

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We the Grand Jury Swear to Enquire for the Body of go^{vt} County of Chester at the offices go^{vt} holden the
17th day of September 1893

Having heard his Ma^{ty}'s gracious Declaration to all his loving Subjects concerning the known conspiracy -
against his said M^{ty} & Government: lately discovered openly said to us in letters by order of go^{vt} at, of as in
in our respective Churches by layell men; And seriously considering the enormities of go^{vt} said
conspiracy & direfull consequences thereof had it taken effect, & the notions of sedition & rebellion
have been cultivated to such an alarming height that some have not only dared to draw them into a
practice in their lives but to propagate them with their latest breath by devilish insinuations of go^{vt}
consistency with religion & law. We conceive it high time to manifest our separation from such persons
& particularly their fellows and abettors with detestation of that dreadfull sin, the bill of perjury,
treasonous affection, seditious murmur, & seditious insinuations, by which go^{vt} attacks & attacks
towards their intended affection & misgave; which barbarous designs it cannot be imagined that such
or the consent of any dip^{ty} must undertake with our confident reliance on confidante auxiliaries; And
not knowing the latitude of such dire combinations but fearful of our own charge & duty which go^{vt}
indispensable obligation the order of allegiance & supremacy lay upon all; We both our solemn bonds
in this dangerous juncture of affairs to present.

That we have strong apprehensions of danger from a dissatisfied party in this County who not only
showed their dissent openly by addresses made to Henry Booth Esq^r & Robert Cotton Esq^r at Bar at the
last election of knights of this shire tending to alter the election of the shire with other dangerous
and seditious purports, giving rise to a series of meetings by them in that design, without opposing
their own of allegiance to the King & his heirs; But also by their seditious meetings and seditious
into which admitted greater division from the store of arms many of them were provided with, And
for that the same persons unanimously assembled with indignantly & wholly dissatisfied in the public
reception of James Duke of Monmouth who has exposed a crime confidante in the late treasonous
conspiracy, the sentence of arms persons then attending him, especially in all more seditious persons
known in this County, to be the invited & instigated cause in a broad mixture of various seditious

known in this county to be the invited & inflight estate in a broad mixture of various salaries with superfluous joy & popular noise committed on that occasion has had an evil influence on this yet restless county, and brought a terror upon his ^{high} M^{ty}: good & peaceable subjects

[illegible]

We don't expect that all of you will forgo entering the Church and trying to have your own faith's is being imposed on
 to know the hearts of men for what we say they refuse to come to Christ, and that all remain in a state of indifference
 in that we is the only way to introduce rebellion against the arbitrary power
 And further we desire humbly to offer to his most sacred M^{ty} our repeated congratulations of joy, for his, and
 his Royal brothers happy deliverance from the late horrid conspiracy with our assurance that we will
 with our lives and fortunes stand in defence of his sacred person & govern our his affairs & benefactress